AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 47, and amend claims 24, 34-37, 40, and 42- 45 as follows.

24. (twice amended) A process for the isolation and purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors from mycelium biomass which comprises:

clarifying a mycelium broth and concentrating the clarified broth to a lower volume,

acidifying the concentrate to a pH value in the range of 4.5 to 7.5, followed by extracting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor with ethyl acetate;

optionally performing lactonization;

crystallizing the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor from:

i) a water miscible first organic solvent; and

ii) a second organic solvent selected from the group consisting of butanol, isobutanol, amyl alcohol, hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, benzyl alcohol, cyclohexanol, methylbutyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, n-propyl, isopropyl acetate, t-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl acetate, amyl acetate, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, methylene chloride, chloroform, acetonitrile, and mixtures of these solvents.

34. (once amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the water-miscible organic solvent used in the crystallization step is acetone or a low alkyl alcohol.

35. (once amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the crystallization step from a water-miscible organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in acetone, and then adding water thereto.

36. (twice amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the crystallization step from a second organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in said organic solvent at a concentration of 10 to 35 g/L, and removing one-third to three-fourth of said organic solvent.

37. (twice amended) The process according to claim 24, wherein the second organic solvent used in the crystallization step is ethyl acetate.

40. (twice amended) A process for the purification of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors which comprises subjecting the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor to combined crystallization steps, which consist of crystallization from a water-miscible first organic solvent and crystallization from a second organic solvent selected from the group consisting of butanol, isobutanol, amyl alcohol, hexanol, 2-ethylhexanol, benzyl alcohol, cyclohexanol, methylbutyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, n-propyl and isopropyl acetate, t-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl acetate, amyl acetate, diethyl ether, diisopropyl ether, methylene chloride, chloroform, acetonitrile, and mixtures of these solvents, as final steps to obtain HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors having a purity higher than 99.6%.

42. (once amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein acetone or a low alkyl alcohol is used as the water-miscible organic solvent.

43. (once amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein the crystallization from a water-miscible organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in acetone, and then adding water thereto.

44. (twice amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein said crystallization from a second organic solvent comprises dissolving the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor in said organic solvent at a concentration of 10 to 35 g/L, and removing one-third to three-fourth of said organic solvent.

45. (twice amended) The process according to claim 40, wherein ethyl acetate is used as the second organic solvent .